

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 and 23-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 11 and 14 have been amended herein. In view of this Amendment reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Noda (6,404,213). Applicant has amended the claims to overcome this rejection. Applicant traverses the Examiner's finding of anticipation and believes the cited art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as amended.

Noda relates to a probe stylus for inspection of circuits on a semiconductor wafer. Two insulated members in the stylus tip form a single or double needle point. The tip is placed in contact with a pad on the semiconductor. The pad on the semiconductor is a flat conductive area on the surface of the wafer. The flat needle points shown in Noda are for single needle designs that are much more complex to manufacture (Figure 48). The "flat" probe shown in Figure 18 is a single probe that has multiple different regions that makes up the separate conductors.


In contrast, the present invention is for testing points that are conductive bumps or conductive balls. Applicants believe this is the first successful method to contact spherical surface without allowing the contact needles to loose contact or slide of the spherical surface or damage the contact surface. The contact is made with **multiple flat conductive probes to a spherical contact point**. The claims have been

amended to include the feature of spherical contact points. Basis for this amendment is found throughout the specification. The dependent claims further contain the additional feature of the footprint of the needles is nearly or larger than the solder ball diameter. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 10, lines 1-5 and in the drawings. This allows the needles to contact the solder ball with less deformation and to contact the conductive ball at the same time compared to previous techniques.

Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of the amended claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Texas Instruments Incorporated

By   
Bret J. Petersen  
Reg. No. 37,417  
Tel.: (972) 917-5339